

U.S. Gives Assurance On Gas, Japan Says

TOKYO, July 22 (AP)—Foreign Minister Kiichi Aichi told Parliament today that Japan had received a U.S. statement that the material involved in a recent "mishap" on Okinawa was not lethal VX nerve gas.

But Aichi said it was still essential for Japan to know all facts about the incident that, according to the U.S. Defense Department, put 24 Americans in the hospital briefly.

Aichi said the government had asked the U.S. government to remove the gas involved in the "mishap." He spoke before the Defense Department announced that it was moving all "toxic agents" off Okinawa.

(In Manila, Philippine Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo told a news conference he had sent a note to the U.S. Embassy expressing "deep concern" over published reports that the United States had lethal nerve gas stored in the Philippines and other Asian points. Romulo said he had requested "definite information" as soon as possible.)

(UPI reported that in Munich the local branch of the Social Democratic Party, a partner in the West German coalition government, demanded

an investigation of reports the U.S. Army has stockpiled nerve gas in Germany.)

The Japanese asked the United States for information about the Okinawa incident Friday, when reports first reached Tokyo.

The Foreign Ministry said the United States promised to continue to observe the deepest caution with "the materials which caused the mishap" and didn't believe the materials would cause any large-scale danger.

The Japanese were also assured the American forces have no fatal chemical weapons at U.S. bases in Japan and have no intention to bring in any.

In Naha, capital of Okinawa, Choby Yara, chief executive of the island's limited self-government, said he had protested the use of nerve gas on Okinawa to Lt. Gen. James B. Lampert, the U.S. high commissioner.

In another move today, Okinawa legislature adopted a resolution asking for the removal of the gas from Okinawa, the U.S.-administered island which Japan wants back by 1972.